

IV. RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION REJECTIONS

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendments render moot the articulated rejections. Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections should be withdrawn. Reconsideration of the amended claims is requested.

V. SUMMARY

It is believed that this response addresses all rejections set forth in the present Office Action and the application is in ready condition for allowance. In consideration of the preceding amendments and remarks, Applicant hereby respectfully requests reconsideration of all pending claims (as amended), the withdrawal of all rejections set forth in the present Office Action and issue of a Notice of Allowance by The Office.

VI. INTERVIEW

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic or personal interview would advance the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact attorney Gildea during business hours at the telephone or facsimile numbers listed below.

VII. FEES

The petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) that accompanies this paper includes an authorization to deduct the appropriate fee from Deposit Account 02-3240. A petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144 or 1.181 and authorization to deduct the appropriate fee accompanies this response. No additional fees are believed due The Office for consideration of this paper. If however, The Office determines that any other fee is due, authorization is hereby granted to charge any required fee associated with the filing or proper consideration of this paper to Deposit Account 02-3240.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE/CUSTOMER NUMBER

Please send all correspondence pertaining to this document to:

Applied Biosystems
Attn: Brian D. Gildea, Esq.
15 DeAngelo Drive
Bedford, MA 01730
Telephone: 781-280-2824
Fax: 781-280-2940

IF NOT ALREADY DONE, PLEASE MATCH THIS CASE WITH CUSTOMER NUMBER

23544

Respectfully submitted
on behalf of Applicant,

July 28, 2004
Date

Brian D. Gildea
Brian D. Gildea, Esq.
Reg. No. 39,995